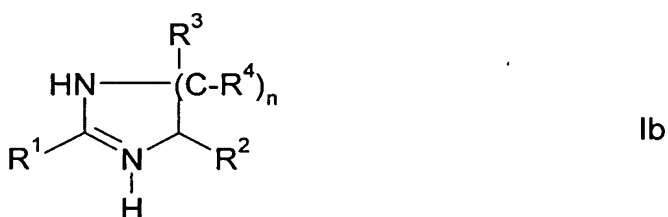
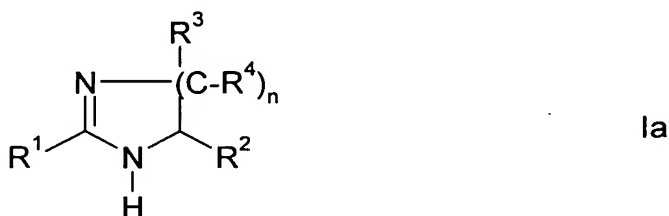


The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of treating and protecting the skin of a human patient having skin with high exogenous surfactant concentration, wherein the surfactant is a fatty acid sulfate, with the exception of sodium dodecyl sulfate, a betaine, an alkylbenzene sulphonate, a fatty acid ether sulfate, an alkylpolyglycoside, or a salt thereof where such salt exists, comprising

a) administering, for a time sufficient to eliminate said high surfactant concentration, a composition comprising at least one compound of the formulae Ia or Ib



or a physiologically compatible salt thereof, or a stereoisomeric form thereof, wherein

R¹ is H or alkyl,

R² is H, COOH, COO-alkyl or CO-NH-R⁵,

R³ and R⁴ are in each case independently of one another H or OH,

n is 1, 2 or 3,

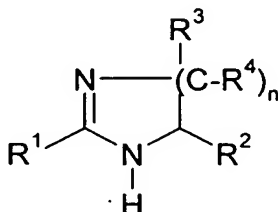
alkyl is an alkyl radical having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and

R⁵ is H, alkyl, or an amino acid radical, dipeptide radical or tripeptide radical and

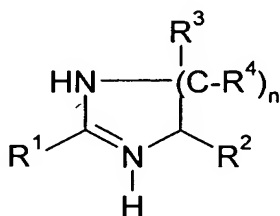
b) thereafter continuing to administer the composition to protect the skin from said high surfactant concentration.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method of protecting the skin of a human patient from high exogenous surfactant concentration, comprising:
administering, to a patient whose skin is in need of protection from high surfactant concentration, a composition comprising at least one compound of the formulae Ia or Ib



Ia



Ib

or a physiologically compatible salt thereof, or a stereoisomeric form thereof,
wherein

R¹ is H or alkyl,

R² is H, COOH, COO-alkyl or CO-NH-R⁵,

R³ and R⁴ are in each case independently of one another H or OH,

n is 1, 2 or 3,

alkyl is an alkyl radical having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and

R⁵ is H, alkyl, or an amino acid radical, dipeptide radical or tripeptide radical,

wherein the composition does not contain said exogenous surfactant and wherein said exogenous surfactant is not sodium dodecylsulfate.

4. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the skin of the human patient is protected from stress caused by said exogenous surfactant or wherein said stress is prevented.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the skin of the human patient is protected from stress caused by said exogenous surfactant or wherein said stress is prevented.

7. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the surfactant is sodium lauryl ether sulfate, cocoamidopropylbetaine, alkylpolyglucosides, benzalkonium chloride, sodium laurylsulfate, ammonium laurylsulfate, or cocodimethylbetaine, or a salt thereof where such salt exists.

8. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the surfactant is sodium lauryl ether sulfate, cocoamidopropylbetaine, alkylpolyglucosides, or benzalkonium chloride or a salt thereof where such salt exists.

9. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 4, wherein the proteins and/or biomembranes in the human skin or the microflora of the skin are protected from said stress.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the proteins and/or biomembranes in the human skin or the microflora of the skin are protected from said stress.

12. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 4, wherein the skin barrier is stabilized from said stress.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the skin barrier is stabilized from said stress.

15. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the composition is a cosmetic composition that is an external application formulation in the form

of a solution, a suspension, an emulsion, a paste, an ointment, a gel, a cream, a lotion, a powder, a soap, a surfactant-containing cleansing preparation, an oil, a lipstick, a lipcare stick, a mascara, an eyeliner, an eyeshadow, a blusher, a powder, an emulsion or wax foundation, a sunscreen, a presun or aftersun preparation or a spray.

16. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of the compound of formulae Ia or Ib, a physiologically compatible salt thereof, or a stereoisomeric form thereof, is from 0.0001 to 50% by weight, based on the total cosmetic formulation.

17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is (S)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2-methyl-4-pyrimidinecarboxylic acid or (S,S)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-5-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-pyrimidinecarboxylic acid.

18. (New) A method according to claim 3, wherein the surfactant is sodium lauryl ether sulfate, cocoamidopropylbetaine, alkylpolyglucosides, benzalkonium chloride, sodium laurylsulfate, ammonium laurylsulfate, or cocodimethylbetaine, or a salt thereof where such salt exists.

19. (New) A method according to claim 3, wherein the surfactant is sodium lauryl ether sulfate, cocoamidopropylbetaine, alkylpolyglucosides, or benzalkonium chloride or a salt thereof where such salt exists.

20. (New) A method according to claim 3, wherein the composition is a cosmetic composition that is an external application formulation in the form of a solution, a suspension, an emulsion, a paste, an ointment, a gel, a cream, a lotion, a powder, a soap, a surfactant-containing cleansing preparation, an oil, a lipstick, a lipcare stick, a mascara, an eyeliner, an eyeshadow, a blusher, a powder, an emulsion or wax foundation, a sunscreen, a presun or aftersun preparation or a spray.

21. (New) A method according to claim 3, wherein the proportion of the compound of formulae Ia or Ib, a physiologically compatible salt thereof, or a stereoisomeric form thereof, is from 0.0001 to 50% by weight, based on the total cosmetic formulation.

22. (New) A method according to claim 3, wherein said compound is (S)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2-methyl-4-pyrimidinecarboxylic acid or (S,S)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-5-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-pyrimidinecarboxylic acid.